

MEETING SUMMARY REPORT
Ferguson Library, Stamford, Connecticut
March 25, 2004

Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Hearing

Total attendance:	23
Congressional attendance	01
RegFair Board in attendance	02
SBA personnel	05
Agencies attending	06
No. of comments	09

Small Business Organizations	Point of Contact	Membership
CT Small Business Development Ctr.	Dennis Gruell	25
SACIA	Lisa Mercurio	450 member businesses w/ 32,000 employees
SBDC - Stamford	Harvey Blomberg	25
Mayor's Office of Economic Dev.	Mike Freimuth	117,083
Total Represented		

Summary:

Testifiers:

1. Robert Loman – President, National Diversified Training Institute, Naugatuck, CT

DOL-Wage and Hour Division: This safety training and consulting business is contracted by Sikorsky Aircraft to provide training functions. Their problems are related to timely payment for the services they provide. "Twice during the 3-4 years that they have been contracted as a vender, they have had to wait over one year to be paid on multiple invoices.

2. Howard Gilreath – Partner, National Diversified Training Institute, Naugatuck, CT

OSHA: Problems with the US postal service since 1998. This company is interested in discussing OSHA mandated safety training.

3. Paul Durfee - Durfee Hardware - True Value Hardware (Tru-Serv Corp) - Cranston, RI. (Read by board member Leo Blais)

DOT - Spoke on behalf of Tru-Serv Corp, a co-operative of over 6,000 individually owned and operated hardware and rental outlets concerning DOT's new regulations affecting the operations of for-hire carriers and private fleets to improve safety on U.S. highways. Durfee feels that the estimated increase of 1.2 million in freight charges is a cost burden that will spread across all dealers as a percentage of their purchases.

4. Dominic Gargano - McLaughlin Research Corp – Middletown, RI (read by board member Leo Blais)

SBA's published "Small Business Size Standards; Restructuring of Size Standards; Proposed Rule" (13 CFR Part 121, RIN 3245-AF11)

5. James J. McDevitt – Jimmy's Café, Wellesley, MA – (testimony read by board member James Knott)

CIS – Problems with Homeland Security issues surrounding sponsorship of an employee, Carlos H. Navarro for permanent residency.

6. Charles R. Johnson - Cranberry Farmer, Carver, MA (brought in by James Knott)

EPA – Spent \$700,000 defending himself against problems dealing with the EPA. This excerpt was taken from website which also has his statement given on 10/3/01 before U.S. House Representatives.
http://www.cranberrystressline.com/epa_013002.html "In December, 1999, EPA filed a civil suit against Charles Johnson and Francis Vaner Johnson, alleging that they filled wetlands without the permit required by the Clean Water Act, in order to construct bogs, dikes, and other structures for a cranberry growing operation in Carver, Massachusetts. The illegal filling destroyed or impaired approximately 24 acres of natural forested and scrub-shrub wetlands, which provided habitat for wildlife, flood control and filtering of pollutants. EPA is asking the court to require the defendants to restore the affected wetlands and to pay a penalty which reflects the serious nature of the violation."

7. Bruce Dyer – Cranberry grower, Holly Lane Farm, Bridgewater, MA (brought in by James Knott)

EPA – Problems with EPA related to the cranberry growing industry. This excerpt was taken from website which also has his testimony given on 4/10/03 before Massachusetts legislators
<http://www.yourpropertyrights.org/scandalsheet/030410.asp>. "I can say from experience with EPA representatives, on my small cranberry farm in Massachusetts that they hold themselves above the law and feel that they can make the rules as they go along. I had the EPA agent, in charge of the investigation, instruct EPA consultants in the field to move the wetland line that had been delineated, using the procedures set forth in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, to an upland location because "she was paying the bill". This same agent also instructed EPA consultants to use any two out of the three parameters of vegetation, hydrology and soils to make their determinations even though this is very explicit in the manual that all three shall be considered. When asked why she did not follow the procedures set forth in the manual she said because these rules weren't for the EPA to follow but for people to follow when they are applying for permits."

8. Mary Soares – Mary's Portuguese Sweet Bread, Pawcatuck, CT – (testimony read by Dennis Gruell, CSBDC)

FTC – Uniform Code Council (UCC) problems Mary is facing placing her baked goods in stores do to the fees associated with the Universal Product Code (UPC). The company requires a minimum of \$750 to join plus an annual fee.

9. Jason Scott - Dungeon Dwellers Productions (testimony read by Dennis Gruell, CSBDC)

FTC – Uniform Code Council (UCC) problems surrounding getting music CDs into Strawberries music store due to UPC fees.